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CLAIMS

1.   A mobile graphics display device, comprising

a touch sensitive display screen coupled to a touch screen processor, the touch screen processor being operable to generate first ink data representative of an input drawing action applied to the touch sensitive display screen,

a graphics display and a graphics image processor operable to display images representative of at least the first ink data on the graphics display, and

a data processor operable in combination with a wireless communications processor

to communicate the first ink data from the mobile graphics display device to another graphics display device,

to receive other ink data created by the other graphics display device, the other ink data being representative of other drawing action, the graphics image processor being operable to generate a representation of the other ink data with respect to the representation of the first ink data according to a common reference, wherein the data processor is operable in combination with the wireless communications processor

to communicate a presence signal providing an indication that the mobile graphics device is available to send and receive ink data to at least one other graphics display device of a predefined group of graphics display devices,

to receive a presence signal from the other graphics display device, the presence signal being indicative that the other graphics display device is available to send and/or receive ink data from the mobile graphics display device, the data processor being operable in response to the presence signal to display an indication on the graphics display screen that the other device is available to send and to receive ink data, and

following receipt of the presence signal from the other graphics display device, to send and to receive the ink data to and from the other graphics display device.

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2.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is operable in response to a command received via the touch screen to establish a connection with the other graphics display device, the ink data produced

5   from drawing actions from the touch screen being communicated to the other graphics display device.

3.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the data processor is operable in combination with the graphics display processor to

10   provide an iconic representation on the display screen representing the presence of the other graphics display device.

4.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the data processor is operable to compression encode the ink data.

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5.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the wireless communications processor is operable in accordance with a wireless mobile radio communications interface to send and receive data via a radio access interface in accordance with the interface.

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6.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the data processor is responsive to an indication from the touch screen to communicate image data via the wireless communications processor to the other graphics display device.

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7.   A mobile graphics display device as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the image data includes one of a URI address or an image file.

8.   A server for use with at least one graphics display device according to

30   any of claims 1 to 7, the server comprising

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a data communications processor operable to receive ink data from a first graphics display device and to receive ink data from at least one other graphics display device,

5   a server control processor operable to store the ink data from the first graphics display device and the ink data from the other graphics display device in a data store in accordance with a sequence of receipt, wherein

the server control processor is operable in combination with the data communications processor to communicate the ink data from the first graphics display device to the other graphics display device, and to communicate the ink data from the

10   other graphics display device to the first graphics display device, wherein the data communications processor includes a connection control processor operable to maintain connection information, the connection information including a list of graphics display devices associated in accordance with a defined group, and the server control processor is operable to identify presence information in accordance with

15   whether one or more of the predefined group of devices is available to exchange ink data, and consequent upon one or more devices being identified, the server control processor is operable to communicate ink data from a device from the group to any of the other graphics display devices of the group which are identified as being present.

20   9.   A server as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the ink data communicated between the group of devices forms a communications session, and the server control processor is operable upon receipt of a request for ink data generated in association with a group from the communications session, to communicate the ink data from the session to the graphics display device requesting the ink data for the session.

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10.   A server as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the server control processor is operable to compression encode at least some of the ink data received from the graphics display devices.

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11.   A server as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the server control processor is operable to compression encode ink data received from the graphics display devices after a predetermined time has lapsed since generation of the ink data.

5   12.   A server as claimed in Claims 8 to 11, wherein the server control processor is operable to store data representative of a time of receipt of the ink data.

13.   A server as claimed in any of Claims 8 to 12, wherein the server control processor is responsive to a request for a previously generated drawing data, to communicate data representative of the previously generated drawing data to a

10   requesting graphics display device.

14.   A server plug-in operable in combination with an instant messaging server and a data store, the plug-in being operable to receive ink data from a plurality

15   of sources and to store the ink in the data store in association with a common reference space, to maintain connection information in association with the ink data stored in the data store, the connection information including a list of graphics display devices associated in accordance with a defined group, to identify presence information in accordance with whether one or more of the predefined group of

20   devices is available to exchange ink data, and consequent upon one or more devices being identified, to communicate ink data from a device from the group to any of the other graphics display devices of the group which are identified as being present.

15.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data, the method comprising

25   generating first ink data representative of drawing action applied to a touch sensitive display screen,
       displaying images representative of the first ink data on a graphics display,
       communicating the first ink data from the mobile graphics display device to another graphics display device, via a wireless communications link and receiving

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other ink data from the other graphics display device, the other ink data being representative of other drawing action, and

receiving the other ink data and generating in combination with the graphics image processor a representation of the other ink data with respect to the

5   representation of the first ink data,

communicating a presence signal providing an indication that the mobile graphics device is available to send and receive ink data to at least one other graphics display device of a predefined group of graphics display devices,

receiving a presence signal from the other graphics display device, the

10   presence signal being indicative that the other graphics display device is available to send and/or receive ink data from the mobile graphics display device,

in response to the presence signal, displaying an indication on the graphics display screen that the other device is available to send and to receive ink data, and

processor being operable in response to the presence signal to display an

15   indication on the graphics display screen that the other device is available to send and to receive ink data, and

following receipt of the presence signal from the other graphics display device to send and to receive the ink data to and from the other graphics display device.

20   16.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in Claim 15, comprising

providing an iconic representation on the display screen representing the presence of other graphics display devices.

25   17.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in any of Claims 15 or 16, comprising

compression encoding the ink data.

18.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in any of Claims

30   15, 16 or 17, comprising

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communicating in response to an indication from the touch screen, image data via the wireless communications processor to the other graphics display device.

19. A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the image data includes one of a URI address or an image file.

20. A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in any of Claims 15 to 19, the method comprising

receiving ink data from a first graphics display device and receiving ink data from at least one other graphics display device,

storing the ink data from the first graphics display device and the ink data from the other graphics display device in a data store in accordance with a common reference space,

communicating the ink data from the first graphics display device to the other graphics display device,

communicating the ink data from the other graphics display device to the first graphics display device,

maintaining connection information identifying the first graphics display device and the other graphics display device, the connection information including a list of graphics display devices associated with a defined group, wherein the communicating the ink data from the first graphics display device to the other graphics display device and from the other graphics display device to the first graphics display device, includes

identifying presence information in accordance with whether one or more of the predefined group of devices is available to exchange ink data, and consequent upon one or more devices being identified,

communicating ink data from a user from the group to any of the other graphics display devices of the group which are identified as being present.

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21.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the ink data communicated between the group of devices forms a communications session, the method comprising

communicating the ink data from the session to a graphics display device

5   requesting the ink data for the session.

22.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in Claim 21, comprising

compression encoding at least some of the ink data received from the graphics

10   display devices.

23.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in Claim 22, comprising

compression encoding ink data received from the graphics display devices

15   after a predetermined time has lapsed since generation of the ink data.

24.   A method of exchanging hand drawn data as claimed in any of Claims 20 to 23, comprising

communicating data representative of the previously generated drawing to a

20   requesting graphics display device, in response to a request for a previously generated drawing data.

25.   A pair of graphics display devices, each device of the pair being a mobile graphics display device according to any of Claims 1 to 7, each being

25   provided with a Subscriber Identity Module associated with the same operator.

26.   A signal representing first ink data produced by a mobile graphics device according to any of Claims 1 to 7.

30   27.   A data carrier representing a signal as claimed in Claim 26.

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28.   A signal representing a combination of ink data and non-ink format data representative of an image or picture data, produced by a mobile graphics display device according to any of Claims 1 to 7.

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29.   A signal as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the image data is one of a Universal Resource Identifier or an image file.

30.   A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to any of Claims 15 to 24.

31.   A computer program product having a computer readable medium with recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claims 30.

32.   A signal bearer carrying the computer program according to Claim 30.

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